

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 2, 2004, **JAMES D. CLOVER**, age 38, of Grand Tower, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The violation took place between February 2002, and February 18, 2004, in Grand Tower, Illinois. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

In a related matter, U.S. Attorney Tenpas further announced that on March 10, 2004, his office filed formal charges against **JOSHUA T. SMITH**, age 25, and **WILLIAM E. GOLLIHER**, age 33, both of Grand Tower, Illinois. The federal complaint against SMITH and GOLLIHER charges them with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. A complaint is merely a method of charging a federal offense and does not create an inference of guilt.

The conspiracy offenses carry a penalty of between 5 and 40 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 4 years supervised release. CLOVER, SMITH, and GOLLIHER are being detained pending a March 15, 2004, bond hearing.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Grand Tower Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.